independent technical review of the activities of Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO); which included verification of geological resources and mining resources, review of operating techniques and processes, etc. It did not include evaluation of assets, which is outside the scope of a technical review.

NALCO contract with Mahanadi Coal fields, Sambalpur

3906. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the NALCO Management has requested the Mahanadi Coal fields, Sambalpur to give permission to fill all pits created by exploration of coal in Talcher by the ash of their captive Thermal Power Station;

(b) whether MCL, Sambalpur has agreed to the proposal; and

(c) if so, the details of the contract?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD-PATIL): (a) to (c) National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) has requested Mahanadi Coal-fields Ltd., (MCL), Sambalpur for permission to dispose of ash generated from their captive power plant into the mined out mines of MCL. MCL has replied that the decision can be taken only after a feasibility study by Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited (CMPDI).

Suburban Transportation System in Hyderabad

3907. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a memorandum of understanding has been signed for development of a multi model suburban commuter transporation system in Hyderbad;

(b) if so, whether Railways share of the cost is provided in Railway Budget 2001-2002; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Necessary approvals are being obtained for certain identified rail projects, the cost of which is to be shared equally by Minister of Railways and the Government of Andhra Pradesh?

Railway Reservation Counter in Leh

3908. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Railway Reservation counter has been opened recently in Leh, the highest in the world, which has especially helped the soldiers posted in the region;

(b) whether the Government would start some more such reservation counters in remote places of Jammu and Kashmir and in the North-Eastern region;

(c) if so, how many reservation counters were opened in the last two years;

(d) how many such centres are proposed to be set up in the near future; and

(e) the names of such centres referred to in parts (c) and (d) above State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Computerized Reservation centers have been opened at six locations in Jammu & Kashmir and North East region during the last two years.

(d) Computerized Reservation centers are proposed to be set up at four new locations in the near future.

(e) Name of the locations where Computerized Reservation facilities were provided during the last two years are: Udhampur, Leh in Jammu & Kashmir and Tejpur, Bongaigaon, Jorhat and Lumding in Assam.

The locations where Computerized Reservation facilities are